

Man-O-War Boat Builders' Memorial Dedication

First of all, a "Thank You" to those who have contributed and checked information that has gone into the plaques - names, dates, relationships to the boat yards, etc. Thank you to:

Andy, Blake, Don, Earl, Glenn, Harcourt, Hartley, Hilland, Jamie, Jan, Jay, Joe, Keith, Lance, Marsha, Maurizio, Neville, Paul, Ralph, Reddith, Roland, Scott, Tony, Warren and Willard

An overview of the memorial can be found here:

<http://mowmemorial.org>

We propose the dedication be reminiscent of a Boat Launchin' Day from back in those days. The following plan is the accumulation of many peoples suggestions. It is a "work in progress".

Date

April 1, 2017

Location

Man-O-War Cay, Abacos, The Bahamas

Map: <http://mowmemorial.org/mowmap.html>



The portion of **Sea Road** between the hardware store and the marina will be blocked off for the dedication. The concentration of displays and tables will be set up in that area. People are welcome to setup their displays elsewhere, of course (say, in front of their shop). All MOW-resident craftsmen and vendors are welcome to set up a **table** - food, crafts, photography, paintings, etc.

Ceremony

We will ring a **bell** (like they did to call the men to lunch and breaks) to start the ceremony.

Scott Weatherford has agreed to be the **Master of Ceremonies**.

The program will have the kids singing "**Launchin' Day**" and "**Island in the Sun**".

Giovana will read a **poem** written by R.B.Wallace in 1972 commemorating Uncle Will.

Anyone who might like to give a **short speech** about how they remember the boat building days or launching days is invited to do so.

They always sang "**God Save the Queen**" at the Launchin' Day ceremonies.

For the **finale**, we would like to stage an actual boat launching. Say on the ramp next to the memorial. It would depend on getting a boat, finding aloe leaves, etc.

Immediately following the ceremony

We plan to have free '**cake and soda pop**' served immediately following the ceremony. The soda pop would be in the old-style glass bottles. The flavours of soda pop, back then, included "orange, grape, and root beer. And ginger ale (in small bottles)".

Events

We plan to encourage the kids (large and small) to make charcoal or crayon **rubbings** of portions of the plaque that is relevant to them (like their ancestors or favorites). We will supply the charcoal or crayon and paper. It is suggested the schools could have a project where the kids then reassemble the portions to recreate the plaque in their classroom. (Marsha said she will organize this with the teachers and parents.)

We plan to have the following **demonstrations** of the old boat builders' skills:

- a. selecting a piece of Madiera so that it's grain matches the bend of a frame, knee or breasthook - Rolland says he will display a large piece of madeira.
- b. sawing a large plank using one of the old humongous saws (ideally with crowd participation) – Bill will display one of these old saws with other tools of Mr Eddie.
- c. sail repair – Jay will display Mr Norman’s old bench w/ other tools.
- d. rope making – Joe and Hartley will do this demonstration.
- e. “popping out plugs” – we will have these out and encourage crowd participation.
- f. sharpening a saw (so that "you could run a needle down the teeth").

We will have special showings of “**The Last Boat Builder**”, a documentary by Jennifer Simms.



We plan to have continuously looping **slide shows** of old photos. Located and highlighting as follows:

- a. Edwin's Boat Yard - we did this for last Sojer Day and it came out very well. Location: Edwin’s #2.
- b. Albury Brothers Boats – located just inside their shop. It would be on the way to the public dock where we would have the boat display. Don has agreed to host this.
- c. Sammie, Joe, Hartley and Roland - representing all the boats they and their family have built. Location: across from Joe’s store. Samantha has started the ball rolling for this.
- d. Something representing the William H Albury Shipyard? (TBD)

Other possible events: bobbing for apples or coins? taffy pull? (TBD)

Boat Display

We will have a **boat display** (1) at the Public Dock, (2) near Joe’s store and (3) at Edwin’s #2 dock. The following boats have accepted invitations to be there: Abaco Rage, Flying Circus, Lady Di, Lively Lady, William H Albury, Tamar II, Tribute, Yippee.

Matthew Janes of Rough Waters has offered to do a sail through the harbor at a pre-arranged time. He said it would include a spinnaker run as well as tacking through the harbour – probably an hour show altogether.

We will also have many of the Abaco Dinghies and old wooden runabouts on display. For reference, the display we had on last Sojer Day:

<http://mowmemorial.org/SojerDay-boatdisplay.html>

We would like to have a **photo** taken of the surviving boat builders. Also, a photo in front of The Rage of anybody who worked on The Rage or sailed on her in the regattas. We will see that everybody in these photos gets a copy as a remembrance.

Bits and bobs

A handout will include the Agenda for the main ceremony, words for any sing-along songs, a map and schedule of events for the day.

Gabrielle has agreed to video the event. Tad has agreed to take aerial coverage using his drone. We will then post this on Youtube as well as make up DVD copies that people can pass around.

We will keep the latest version of this planning document at

<http://mowmemorial.org/dedication.pdf>

Organizing Committee (Feel free to contact us)

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